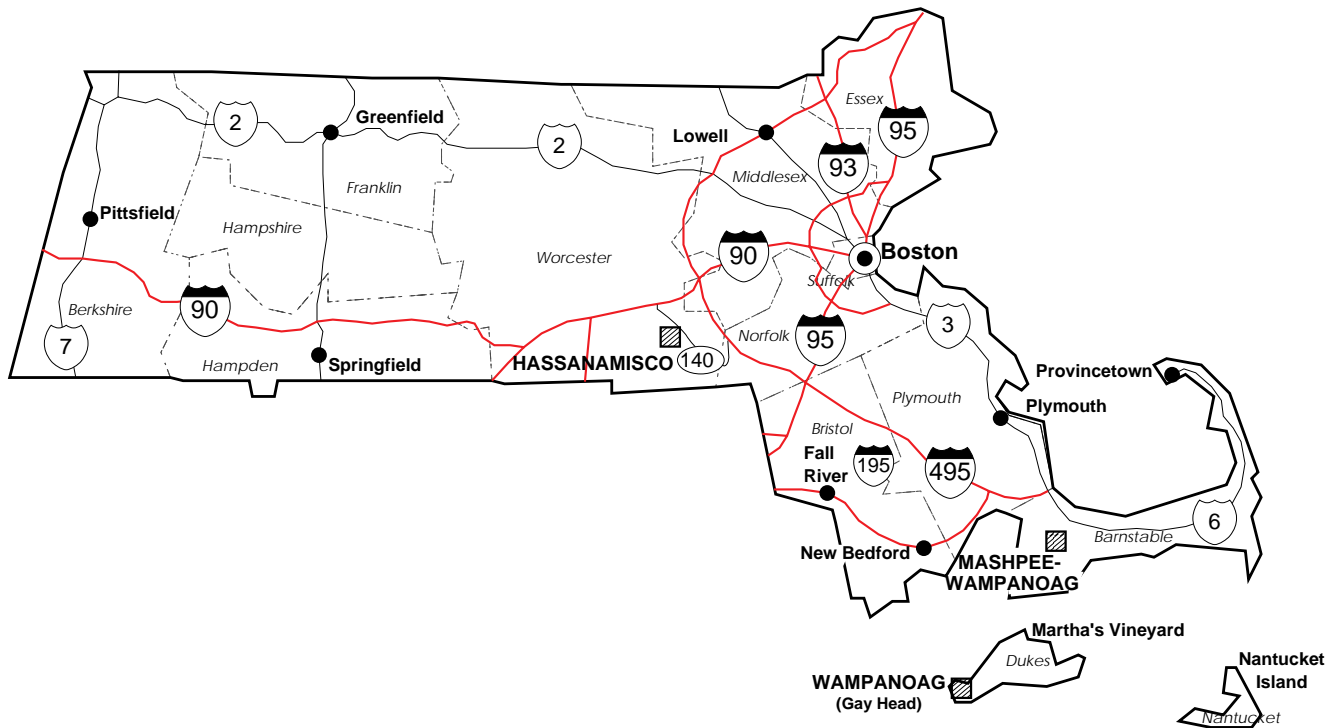


MASSACHUSETTS



Gay Head Reservation

Federal reservation

Wampanoag (Aquinnah)
Dukes County, Massachusetts

Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
20 Black Brook Road
Gay Head (Aquinnah), MA 02535
(508) 645-9265
Fax: 645-3790

Total area	485 acres
High school graduate of higher	84.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher	14.1%
Per capita income	\$9,397
Total labor force	148
Unemployment rate	12.2%
Total reservation population	260
Tribal enrollment	600

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Wampanoag trust lands are located at the southwestern portion of Martha's Vineyard, a 93 square mile island located six miles south of the mainland of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and 80 miles directly south of Boston. In accordance with the Wampanoag Tribal Council of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1987, there are approximately 485 acres (160 acres private and approximately 325 acres common lands) of tribally owned land.

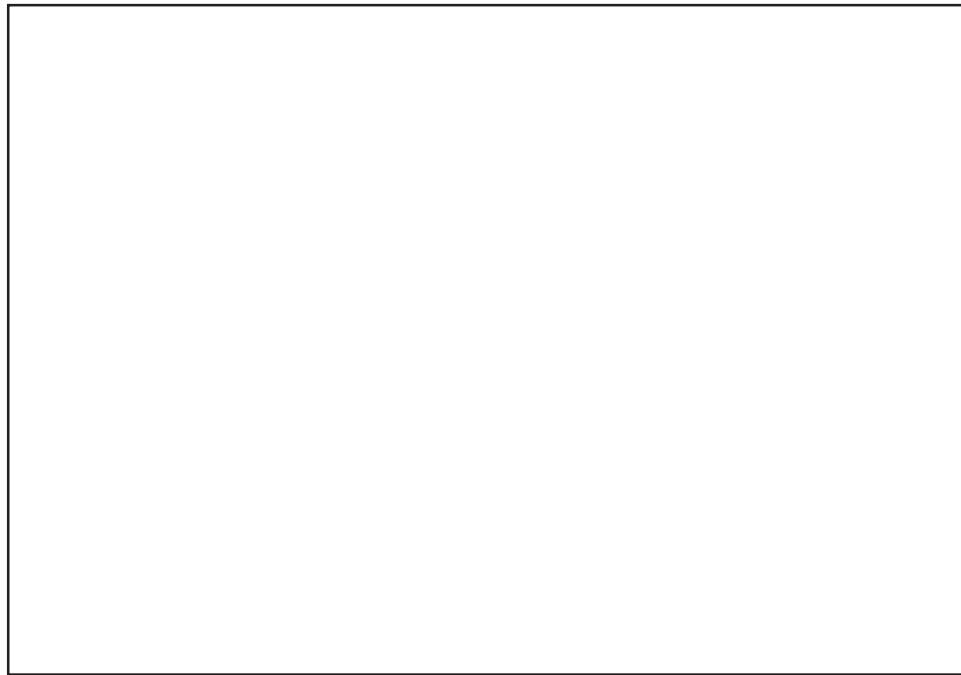
The Gay Head Wampanoag do not have a reservation per se; rather, the tribe owns certain lands in trust, such as the famous Cliffs of Gay Head (Aquinnah), the cranberry bogs, a herring run, and some acreage near tribal offices. Because of sensitivity to the area's wetlands and historical and archeological sites, only 97.49 acres of the Wampanoag land are developable. Currently, through joint efforts by the tribe, the Center for Economic Development, University of Massachusetts, and the Development Studio, Landscape Architecture Program, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, a careful land development plan has been established.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head are descendants of Wampanoag people who traditionally inhabited the southeastern portion of present-day Massachusetts, including Cape Cod, eastern Rhode Island, and Martha's Vineyard, since at least the late 15th century. Of eastern Algonquian linguistic stock, the Wampanoag were referred to as Pokanoket in early documents. A horticultural people, during the early 17th century the Wampanoag occupied approximately 30 villages in this region. Best known in the literature for their relationship with the Plymouth Pilgrims, the Wampanoag's leader, Massasoit, welcomed the English and remained at peace with them until his death in 1661. By that time the Wampanoag had suffered grave population losses due to the introduction of epidemic causing diseases and the usurpation of much of their ancestral land.

In retaliation for these losses, Massasoit's son, Metacom, led a coalition of New England native people against the colonists in 1675. Known as the King Philip War, referring to the title given Metacom by the English, the native people were initially successful, attacking 52 of the 90 white settlements in Indian territory and wiping out 12 of them. But Metacom, who did not command the wide respect that his father had, faced trouble in keeping together his coalition of New England tribes. The English suffered heavy losses before the Indians were finally defeated and Metacom was killed in 1676.

The Wampanoag of Gay Head (Aquinnah) represent the only division of the Wampanoag Nation who have gained federal recognition (1987). The Wampanoag term "Aquinnah" refers to the Gay Head region of the island. While Gay Head is the



Tourists at Martha's Vineyard Visit Gay Head

largest and most socially and politically active of the Wampanoag divisions, some of the other four autonomous groups are currently seeking federal recognition. The Wampanoag Nation was established in 1928 through the involvement of the two Mashpee men, Eben Queppish and Nelson Simons, in the Pan-Indian movement in the early part of this century.

Tourism has become one of the major island businesses and individual families run some of the many snack bars and shops up at the cliffs. Many Gay Headers have moved off the island out of economic necessity and to pursue further educational opportunities. Since their successful bid for recognition in 1987, the Gay Head Wampanoag have actively pursued various economic development projects. The completion of the tribe's multi-purpose building and first tribally owned residents represents the first phase of the tribe's plans for geographic unification. The tribe strives to preserve its cultural heritage; young tribal members belong to the Noepe Cliff Singers (and Dancers), a drumming group which celebrates the Wampanoag heritage.

GOVERNMENT

The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) is governed by a popularly elected representative Tribal Council. The eleven member Council is elected for three-year staggered terms and include a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer. In addition, a Traditional Chief and Medicine Man are Council members. Meetings are open to all tribal members.

ECONOMY

GAMING

Currently the tribe is close to completing negotiations with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts over a proposed casino compact. The tribe is presently trying to acquire land in New Bedford for the



Wampanoag Environmentally-friendly Tribal Building

gaming facility. The gaming facility is being jointly developed with the Carnival Hotels and Casino Company.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

Consolidated Tribal Government Programs provide important employment opportunities for tribal members. Moreover, the Tribal Council oversees a WorkLearn program which places young tribal members in employment positions throughout the community.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

Tourism and service/retail jobs supporting the tourism market represent Martha's Vineyard's most significant revenue source and also provides employment for tribal members. Visitors are drawn to the island's beautiful beaches, secluded appeal, and the state forest which covers much of the island. The Gay Head tribal lands offer many spectacular landscapes for outdoor enthusiasts, including the multicolored clay cliffs of Gay Head. The tribe's Aquinnah Conservation Ranger Program provides rangers who both protect the cliffs and inform the general public of their significance to the Native American population. The tribe collaborates with the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank and the Massachusetts Audubon Society to provide visitor services. They services include monitoring use of the beach, developing interpretive programs, and maintaining visitor facilities.

Cranberry Day, on the second Tuesday in October, and the Annual Spring Dance represent two important tribally sponsored events held on the island. Both events have sacred/private and secular/public components. Cranberry Day begins when Gay Headers go down to their bogs to spiritually give thanks for the berries they are about to harvest. This private ritual is followed by a public display when the native people return to the town hall, baskets filled with berries, for an afternoon of feasting, dancing, and drumming. The tribe's Noepe Cliff Singers and Dancers perform at the Annual Spring Dance which is held on the last Sunday in April.

There are tourist accommodations throughout the area, including the Martha's Vineyard Family Campground located one mile from the Vineyard Haven ferry terminal. The campground offers full service tent and RV sites. Additional accommodations are available in Woods Hole, the mainland town adjacent to the island. Woods Hole is also the site of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and the Massachusetts State Aquarium.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Martha's Vineyard & Nantucket Steamship Authority provides the most commonly used transportation onto the island. The ferry, which travels across Vineyard Sound from the town of Woods Hole, runs hourly and trips last approximately 45 minutes. Reservations may be made in advance.

The tribe has recently completed a main access road leading to its new multi-purpose building. The Bureau of Indian Affairs funded this road.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Currently the tribe is in the process of constructing its first 30 homes on tribal lands. The tribe's newly constructed multi-purpose building, which was dedicated in June of 1994, includes office areas, meeting rooms, library and display areas. The environmentally friendly design was developed with attention to the tribe's regard and respect for nature. Programs related to Health and Human Services, Economic Development, Planning and Natural Resources, as well as tribal administration, are housed in this facility.

The tribe provides many services to its members, including child care services and vocational training. Member health care is available through the Wampanoag Health Program.

Hassanamisco Reservation

State Recognized
Hassanamisco-Nipmuc
Worcester County, Massachusetts

Nipmuc Tribal Council
Grafton, Massachusetts 01519

Total area	11.9 acres
Tribally owned	11.9 acres

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

State recognized
Mashpee Wampanoag
Barnstable County, Massachusetts

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council
P. O. Box 1048
Mashpee, MA 02649
(508) 477-0208
Fax (505) 477-1218

Tribally owned	55 acres
Allotted	16,500 acres*
Per capita income	\$7,666
Adjacent reservation population (tribe, 1994)	890
Tribal enrollment (tribe, 1994)	1,014

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

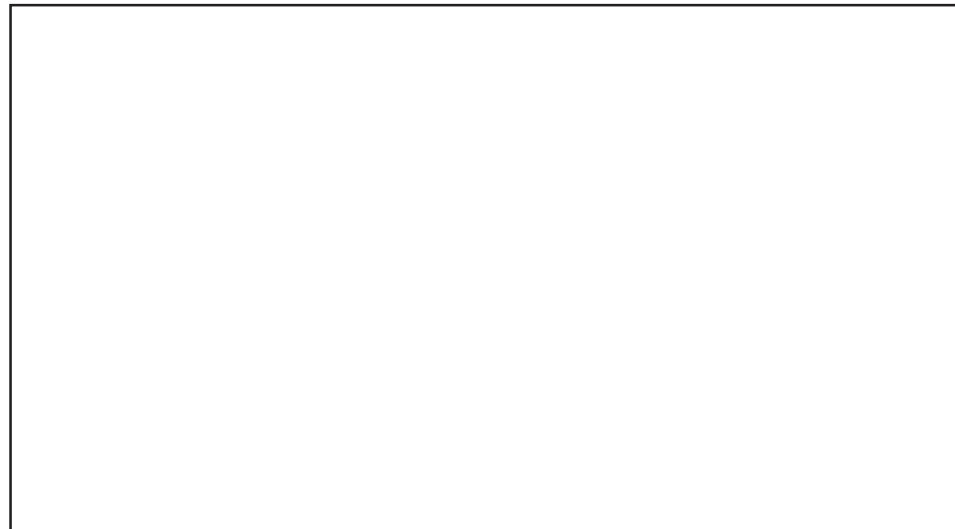
The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe owns 55 acres in the town of Mashpee located on the western end of Cape Cod, a peninsula extending from the eastern coast of Massachusetts into the Atlantic Ocean. This land is referred to by the Mashpee as the "Fifty-five Acres." It is common land owned by the tribe and serves as the tribe's land base. The 55 Acres is an anomaly in the well-developed summer resort area, being neither populated nor developed. The 55 Acres lies adjacent to the newly established 3,000-acre Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge. The tribal building on the 55 Acres is located off Great Neck Road in the town of Mashpee.

*Thousands of acres of land were allotted to the Mashpee in 1685 King George II; the allotment was later reaffirmed by the Plymouth Colony. Then in 1835, by an act of the General Court of Massachusetts, approximately 10,000 acres of common land were further allotted to individual Mashpees.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Mashpee Wampanoags assisted the Pilgrims in surviving their first years in the New World. Christian teachings, ever important to the Plymouth Colony and later to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, were spread to the Wampanoags. Land for the occupancy of the Mashpee Tribe was established in 1644 to propagate Christian gospel among the Mashpee. This land was known as the Mashpee Plantation. *The allotment of 16,500 acres in 1685 by King George II was reaffirmed by the Plymouth Colony. In 1834 the plantation was proclaimed the Mashpee District. By an act of the General Court of the Massachusetts Commonwealth,

approximately 10,000 acres were allotted to individual Mashpee Wampanoags in 1835. Five years later, tribal common lands were further divided. In 1870 the district was incorporated as a town, without the vote of town residents and Indian land owners, who were the only land owners affected. The Mashpee nonetheless governed the town until the 1960s. The State of Massachusetts has not yet recognized Mashpee title to these lands. The state's heritage of policies (dating from the Puritans) toward the Indians included a law which allowed land owners to brand Indian slaves, and two wars against Indian tribes. In 1976 a suit was filed by the Mashpee to reclaim aboriginal lands on Cape Cod. In the 20th century the Mashpee



Cap Cod Beauty

Indians have worked hard to retain their tribal identity while also becoming an economically viable community. The non-profit organization (Indian Cultural and Spiritual Training Council) established by tribal members works to promote economic development opportunities for, and skills of the Mashpee.

GOVERNMENT

The tribe is governed by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council. The tribe adopted its constitution in 1970 and is updating it. The council is composed of 13 members elected to staggered one year terms, and a chief who is not elected and serves until he chooses to step down. Members who are 16 years and older may vote.

ECONOMY

Because the tribe's 55 Acres remains untouched, the economy of the community of Mashpee is discussed below. The town of Mashpee is located on Cape Cod and as a result its economy is dependent upon tourism and the influx of summer residents. Competing to do business and to raise children in a community which is divided along class lines poses difficulties. The average annual income of a Mashpee family of three reported by the 1990 U.S. Census closely paralleled the location average of \$23,000.

AGRICULTURE

The Indian Cultural and Spiritual Training Council (ICST) owns a farm.

CONSTRUCTION

Several tribal members own construction businesses.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The ICST plans to build a greenhouse to grow vegetables.

FISHERIES

The Wampanoag Aqua Farm raises shellfish on the bay and employs five.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

Tribal government has four full-time

employees for federal government contracts in health and training.

SERVICES

All services are available either in Mashpee or in nearby communities.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

The annual pow wow is held on the fourth of July weekend.

INFRASTRUCTURE

A municipal airport and bus service are 10 miles distant. State Road 130 traverses the community north-south, intersecting with Massachusetts State Highway 28 two miles south and U.S. Highway 6 nine miles north. UPS, Federal Express, and commercial trucking serve the community.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

A tribal office provides craft/cultural demonstrations, health classes and guest speakers. Water service and a gas main serve some parts of the community. The tribe publishes a community newsletter. Electricity is provided by Common Wealth Electricity. A well and septic tank serve the 55 Acres.



On the 55 Acres, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Building